



# Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology  
and Economic Development

## APRIL 2009

*The Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development is the primary provincial agency for creating a strong, prosperous and diverse economy, as well as the ministry responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative.*



### Agrologists Agree On Labour Mobility

March 11, 2009 - The British Columbia and Alberta institutes of agrologists have joined the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement between British Columbia and Alberta. TILMA strives to reduce and eliminate barriers to the free movement of workers, goods, services and investments. [Read More>>>](#)



*Left to Right: John Hepburn, UBC vice-president of research; Jack Saddler, UBC dean of forestry; Pat Bell, Minister of Forests and Range; Pierre Lapointe, president and CEO of FPInnovations; Martha Salcudean, chair of the Leading Edge Endowment Fund; Phil Evans, B.C. Leadership chair in Advanced Forest Products Manufacturing Technology*

### B.C. and UBC Find More Ways To Use and Protect Wood

A partnership between the



*April 8, 2009 - Minister Ida Chong and Vincent Krynski, CEO of Streetlight Intelligence in Victoria, tour smart street lighting technology that dims street lights when they are not needed, reducing street light energy consumption by up to 40 per cent. One of 19 supported ICE Fund projects, the technology received \$1.3 million from the Innovative Clean Energy Fund.*

### Clean Energy Projects To Create 1,200 Jobs in B.C.

April 3, 2009 - The provincial government announced it will invest over \$32.6 million to help commercialize British Columbia's clean, alternative energy technologies, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create about 1,200 jobs in over 30 B.C. communities. The new clean energy investments will come from two sources: over \$22.6 million from the Innovative Clean Energy Fund and \$10 million to support the production of liquid biofuels with demonstrated low greenhouse gas emissions. [Read More>>>](#)

Province and the University of B.C. is enabling one of the world's top wood scientists to develop cutting-edge manufacturing technology that will help B.C.'s forest products industry compete in the global economy. The research focuses on the structure and properties of wood at the macroscopic, microscopic and nanoscopic levels. [Read More>>>](#)



### Did You Know?

- Small business employs more than one million people in British Columbia.
- Since 2001, small businesses in B.C. have created close to 160,000 jobs.

### Big News For Small Business

Effective July 1, 2009 the Province will double the British Columbia Training Tax Credit, giving employers new incentives to hire and train apprentices, and reduce the small business income tax to the lowest in Canada. [Read More>>>](#)



### Prince George Joins the BiZPaL Network

Prince George welcomes BiZPaL, a user-friendly online permit and licence service that helps entrepreneurs to start up a business faster. The government aims to have BiZPaL available to all municipalities in British Columbia by 2010. [Read More>>>](#)



### B.C. Strengthens Trade and Investment Ties with India

British Columbia's economic and cultural relationship with India is being strengthened thanks to the appointment of the Province's first trade and investment representative in Bangalore, India. By hiring on-the-ground expertise, the Province is helping B.C.-based companies form more partnerships and trade relationships in the Asia-Pacific market. Opening early this summer, the office will complement the five existing trade and investment offices, located in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo. [Read More>>>](#)

### ICE Fund Powers Up T'Sou-ke Nation Solar Project

March 30, 2009 – Minister Ida Chong met with Chief Gordon Planes to congratulate the T'Sou-ke Nation on its innovative solar power project. Thanks to the support of the Province's Innovative Clean Energy Fund, the T'Sou-ke Nation has put a solar and photovoltaic innovation and demonstration project in place. This will be the largest grid-connected photovoltaic energy system operating in British Columbia and supports the T'Sou-ke Nation's goal of becoming a sustainable solar community. The T'Sou-ke Nation installed solar panels on 25 homes on the reserve and trained nine band members as installers, with additional capacity coming on-line later this spring. Photovoltaic units are also in use at the band office and fisheries building. In July, the T'Sou-ke Nation will host a solar energy conference for representatives from about 70 B.C. First Nations. [Read More>>>](#)

### Did You Know?

- The Asia Pacific is the fastest growing marketplace for B.C. exports.
- B.C.'s exports to the Asia Pacific in 2008 were worth nearly \$10.5 billion, 51 per cent more than in 1999.
- Exports to China have increased 247 per cent in the past 10 years.
- Between 1999 and 2008, B.C.'s exports to India have more than doubled.
- In 2008, B.C.'s exports to Korea were nearly \$2 billion, an increase of 158 per cent compared with 1999.



### B.C. Leads Canada with Labour Mobility Bill

March 12, 2009 - B.C. is the first province in Canada that will introduce legislation to dismantle barriers to full labour mobility for all trades and professions. The bill supports the national Agreement on Internal Trade, improving opportunities for workers and employers. This means a person certified in any Canadian province will be recognized and able to practise their profession anywhere in Canada.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009STED0014-000329  
March 11, 2009

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

### **AGROLOGISTS AGREE ON LABOUR MOBILITY**

VICTORIA – On behalf of their respective memberships, the British Columbia and Alberta institutes of agrologists are complying with the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between the two provinces, Small Business, Technology and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong said today.

Professional agrologists specialize in agricultural, natural resources and environmental science. There are an estimated 1,150 agrologists in B.C. and about 2,000 in Alberta.

“The TILMA makes good sense because it cuts bureaucratic duplication and empowers people to maximize their career possibilities through labour mobility,” said Chong. “Professional agrologists recognize the value of the principles represented by the TILMA – particularly in two provinces where agriculture and natural resources play an important role in the economy.”

“Agrologists play an integral role in the sustainable development of Alberta’s agriculture industry and are increasingly showcasing their expertise in land reclamation,” said Ron Stevens, Alberta Deputy Premier and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations. “With full labour mobility under the TILMA, Alberta and B.C. have opened the door for even greater opportunities in this diverse and growing field.”

“Our members in B.C. and our Alberta colleagues have long realized the benefits of establishing common ground on matters of professional certification and practice,” said Don Rugg, executive director and registrar of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists. “The TILMA provides an important validation of the principle of labour mobility, supported by professional agrologists for years.”

“Harmonizing professional agrologist credential assessments between provinces provides stronger public protection and public confidence concerning professional agrologist competencies. The Alberta Institute is pleased with the model and hopes that one day all provinces are included,” said David Lloyd, CEO and registrar of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

Signed in April 2006, the TILMA strives to reduce and eliminate barriers to the free movement of workers, goods, services and investments. The TILMA will be fully implemented on April 1, 2009. Canada’s most comprehensive inter-provincial trade agreement, the TILMA creates a market of almost 7.8 million people – the nation’s second largest economy.

More information on the TILMA is available at [www.tilma.ca](http://www.tilma.ca) and on the Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development’s website at [www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev).

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Backgrounder(s) & FactSheet(s): [Backgrounder](#) [Backgrounder](#)



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009OTP0061-000611  
April 3, 2009

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

### **CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS TO CREATE 1,200 JOBS IN B.C.**

BURNABY – The provincial government will invest over \$32.6 million to help commercialize British Columbia’s clean, alternative energy technologies, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create about 1,200 jobs in over 30 B.C. communities, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

“British Columbia’s alternative energy and biofuel sectors are becoming world-leaders in pioneering cutting-edge clean, green technology,” said Premier Campbell. “By focusing on leading-edge technology, we’re supporting the creation of good jobs in communities across the province; building a home-grown clean energy sector that will market proven innovations to the world; and helping meet the growing demand for green power here in B.C.”

New clean energy investments will come from two sources: over \$22.6 million from the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund and \$10 million to support the production of liquid biofuels with demonstrated low greenhouse gas emissions. The projects have a combined value of almost \$200 million.

“By working with British Columbia’s dynamic clean energy entrepreneurs, we are helping to bring new technologies to the point where they are commercially viable,” said Small Business, Technology and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong. “Clean energy technologies help protect the environment while stimulating economic activity at the community level.”

The announcement was made today at Lignol Innovations in Burnaby, which is receiving \$3.4 million in provincial funding to produce cellulosic ethanol and other products from under-utilized forest resources, especially beetle-killed lodgepole pine.

“This facility is one of just a handful in the world that can demonstrate the production of cellulosic ethanol and biochemicals on an industrial scale. With this support from the provincial government, we will begin operating our new pilot plant on a range of B.C. feedstocks, so that we can optimize our process and finalize the engineering for large scale plants,” said Ross MacLachlan, president and CEO of Lignol. “This facility will become a showcase for our company and British Columbia as we strive to commercialize a technology that holds so much promise for the forest products industry and communities hardest hit by the mountain pine beetle devastation.”

The ICE Fund is supporting 19 projects situated in rural and off-grid communities across British Columbia, covering a range of technological applications, including: ocean tidal and wave, solar, geothermal, wind, biomass, wastewater, energy conservation and management, and variable street light technology. The approved projects represent over \$96 million in total value and will create about 750 temporary and full time jobs in over 25 B.C. communities.

Funding for liquid biofuels will support eight projects to develop cellulosic ethanol, biodiesel, and biofuels

technologies. The approved projects represent over \$100.6 million in total value and will create about 450 temporary and full time jobs in seven B.C. communities. Increased biofuels production will help meet the provincial standard of five per cent minimum annual average renewable content for gasoline and diesel used in B.C. by 2010.

By taking decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020, government is positioning British Columbia to be a green economic powerhouse in high tech and clean energy sectors – benefiting communities, businesses and citizens throughout the province now and in future. For more information, please visit <http://www.tted.gov.bc.ca/ICEFund/Pages/default.aspx> online.

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2 backgrounder(s) attached.

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## BACKGROUND

2009OTP0061-000611

April 3, 2009

Office of the Premier

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

### INNOVATIVE CLEAN ENERGY FUND RURAL PROJECTS

#### **Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation**

**ICE Fund investment \$4.133 million****Total project value – \$14,797,600****Project phase jobs – 84****On-going jobs – nine**

The project will use excess capacity from an existing industrial biomass energy system to produce electricity and heat for community use. The energy system consists of two parts: a turbine and electrical generator to produce electricity and heat; and a distribution system to serve local clients. Replacing natural gas, the energy from the new community energy system will heat city hall, a local hospital, a retirement lodge, provincial government offices, a recreation centre, other large buildings and industrial sites.

#### **Small Energy Group Inc.**

**Hartley Bay, Haida Gwaii, Hesquaiht****ICE Fund investment \$2.418 million****Total project value – \$7,254,000****Project phase jobs – 25****On-going jobs – 25**

Small Energy Group Inc. (Pulse Energy), a B.C. company, has created an energy software system to improve the management of energy use in buildings and communities, resulting in reduced diesel-electric power generation in remote, First Nation, and off-grid communities. The project's off-grid component involves 100-200 buildings in three remote communities with three partners: Village of Hartley Bay, Hesquaiht First Nation with Ecotrust Canada, and Haida Gwaii with BC Hydro. An on-grid component involves 12 commercial buildings in Prince George and 12 in Nanaimo.

#### **E3P Technologies, Inc.**

**Northern Development Initiative Trust Region****ICE fund investment \$2.32 million****Total project value – \$6,600,000****Project phase jobs – four****On-going jobs – 10**

E3P Technologies, Inc. has researched and developed a patented device to capture wasted pressure energy from natural gas pipelines. Wasted energy from pressure reduction can be recovered and converted to useable electrical power. The device is scalable, reversible and ideal for converting pressure energy to mechanical work.

#### **Pacific Coastal Wave Energy Corporation**

**Ucluelet****ICE fund investment \$2 million**

**Total project value – \$20,000,000**

**Project phase jobs – 12**

**On-going jobs – two**

Pacific Coastal Wave Energy Corp. is partnering with the District of Ucluelet to build a four-megawatt (MW) demonstration facility to generate electricity from ocean wave power. Located off-shore from the community, the technology will be attached to the seabed where submerged buoys harness the ocean's kinetic energy. Since it is deployed underwater, there are no aesthetic concerns and less vulnerability to weather.

**SyncWave Systems Inc.**

**Tofino**

**ICE Fund investment \$2 million**

**Total project value - \$10,475,000**

**Project phase jobs – 30**

**On-going jobs – 30**

A SyncWave Power Resonator will convert the energy of ocean swells into clean, renewable electricity. The technology is designed to be suitable for both off-grid and grid-integrated applications.

**Canoe Pass Tidal Energy Consortium**

**Regional District of Strathcona**

**ICE Fund investment \$2 million**

**Total project value – \$6,375,000**

**Project phase jobs – 33**

Canoe Pass Tidal Energy Consortium (New Energy Corporation Inc., Canoe Pass Tidal Energy Corporation and the City of Campbell River) will develop a commercial tidal energy site at Canoe Pass in a narrow channel between Quadra and Maude Islands north of Campbell River. The commercialization project will involve removal of a causeway, restoration of the tidal current flow and installation of a mechanical span across the pass for two 250 kilowatt (KW) turbines to harness the tidal power.

**Aboriginal Cogeneration Corporation (ACC)**

**Kamloops**

**ICE Fund investment \$1.5 million**

**Total project value – \$10,050,000**

**Project phase jobs – seven**

**On-going jobs – 21**

ACC will build a biomass-to-energy demonstration facility at their existing railroad tie handling facility in Kamloops, using waste railway ties from Canadian Pacific Railway as feedstock. The facility will use a micro-gasifier to convert biomass, such as wood or dry processing residues, into electricity. Each micro-gasifier can process up to 41 tonnes of waste wood per day, effectively generating one MW for every two tonnes of wood biomass. Future opportunities exist with small northern communities where ACC can convert existing diesel fuel-powered generators to biomass generators using mountain pine beetle infested timber.

**Pacific Green Energy Initiative “Smart” Street Light Coalition**

**Prince George, Quesnel, Vanderhoof, Fort St. James, Fraser Lake, Wells**

**ICE Fund investment \$1.3 million**

**Total project value – \$3,848,250**

**Project phase jobs – 23**

**On-going jobs – 300**

This project is a commercial scale demonstration of “smart” street light technology to replace 8,000 to 10,000 lights in six participating communities. Electricity consumption for street lighting in British Columbia could be reduced by up to 100,000 MW hours per year by retrofitting approximately 300,000 street lights with adaptive lighting technology developed in the province.

**Northwind Ethanol**

**Prince George****ICE Fund investment \$1.246 million****Total project value – \$4,985,500****Project phase jobs – 20****On-going jobs – 28**

Northwind Ethanol proposes to build a 500,000 gallon (US) cellulosic feedstock, fuel ethanol demonstration facility to make ethanol and lignin from woody biomass. The project supports new employment opportunities in the forest industry and provides fuel ethanol.

**Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation****Clayoquot Sound****ICE Fund investment \$750,000****Total project value – \$3,000,000****Project phase jobs – five****On-going jobs – two**

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation is currently implementing the Ty-Hystanis New Community project, with plans for a health centre, community building, school, and a 160-lot subdivision for up to 215 new housing units. The project will pump geo-thermal energy from the ground to provide heat for buildings and domestic hot water for residents.

**City of Grand Forks****ICE Fund investment \$666,667****Total project value – \$2,000,000****Project phase jobs – 30****On-going jobs – two**

The project will incorporate a heat recovery system in the municipality's reconstruction of its park lift station, extracting energy from raw wastewater to heat a new building housing the lift station, public restrooms, and a community stage.

**Saltwork Technologies****Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen****ICE Fund investment \$503,910****Total project value – \$1,586,000****Project phase jobs – three****On-going jobs – 20**

Saltworks Technologies Inc. has developed a desalination technology that substantially reduces the amount of electricity needed to make brackish water potable. The technology uses solar-chemical energy for the conversion process – saving enough electricity to power 21,000 homes for a year. Within British Columbia, Saltworks expects commercial applications in water-stressed rural and remote communities located in coastal regions or areas with salty groundwater.

**New Hope Society****Baldy Hughes Rehabilitation Centre (southwest of Prince George)****ICE Fund investment \$460,635****Total project value – \$1,316,100****Project phase jobs – seven****On-going jobs – seven**

Baldy Hughes is former military base used as an addictions treatment centre. The project will heat eight of the 22 buildings on site from a centralized boiler plant fuelled by wood pellets. The heating system will allow for removal of existing propane boilers.

**Pacific Regeneration Technologies Inc. (PRT)****Prince George**

**ICE Fund investment \$435,600**

**Total project value – \$1,306,800**

**Project phase jobs – two**

**On-going jobs – two**

PRT's project will install a high-efficiency low-emission gasifier/combustor and boiler using poplar and willow feedstock, in addition to waste biomass, to produce heat for commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. The locally-grown woody feedstock is a valuable alternative source of biomass for the region.

**Town of Gibsons**

**ICE Fund investment \$325,115**

**Total project value – \$976,320**

**Project phase jobs – three**

The Town of Gibsons will design and build a municipally-operated geo-exchange district energy utility, the first of its kind in North America, to capture renewable energy from heat exchangers in the ground on municipally-owned green space. The system will pump heat from the ground to residential and commercial buildings, initially servicing 110 dwellings. In addition to the jobs and investment, the project will provide the municipality with stable, long-term revenue.

**Powertech Labs Inc. (BC Hydro)**

**Bella Coola**

**ICE Fund investment \$203,775**

**Total project value - \$617,500**

**Project phase jobs – five**

**On-going jobs – one**

This initiative deploys energy storage systems in remote British Columbia communities through a zinc bromine battery system. Zinc bromine batteries improve reliability of intermittent power sources, such as wind and solar generation. The Bella Coola project is demonstrating technologies that can reduce reliance on non-renewable power generation, particularly diesel.

**Siwash Lake Ranch**

**100 Mile House**

**ICE Fund investment \$197,000**

**Total project value – \$590,200**

**Project phase jobs – 10**

**On-going jobs – two**

The project at Siwash Lake Ranch will overhaul an existing off-grid energy system, currently burning over 14,000 litres of diesel fuel and 7,000 litres of propane per year. The ranch will be switching to a primary solar energy system to generate clean, renewable electricity. Solar thermal technologies will replace propane currently used for heating water.

**Nyfound Energy Inc. Wind Farm Project**

**Merritt**

**ICE Fund investment \$142,592**

**Total project value – \$484,224**

**Project phase jobs – two**

The project will use wind turbines to pump water from an existing reservoir into a new water storage area on higher ground. Then, when the wind dies down, the water will flow from the higher to the lower reservoir through a hydro generator to create electricity.

**Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)**

**Clinton, Logan Lake, Lytton**

**ICE Fund investment \$79,063**

**Total project value – \$237,189**

**Project phase jobs – six**

**On-going jobs – three**

TNRD is upgrading refuse transfer stations to eco-depots in the municipalities of Clinton, Logan Lake and Lytton. The project will install solar panels at three eco-depots, reducing reliance on conventional hydro and fossil fuel generators, while providing power for compacting refuse and recyclable material.

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## BACKGROUND

2009OTP0061-000611

April 3, 2009

Office of the Premier

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

### LIQUID BIOFUELS PROJECTS

**Lignol Innovations Ltd.****Burnaby****Province of B.C. funding – \$3,405,000****Total project value – \$11,572,000****On-going jobs – 20**

Lignol will produce cellulosic ethanol and other products from under-utilized forest resources, especially beetle-killed lodgepole pine. The project will establish process and product characteristics to produce test-market quantities of cellulosic ethanol and lignin-based products. The project includes a basic engineering design package and cost estimate for an initial major commercial bio-refinery to be built in British Columbia. By providing a demand for large quantities of beetle-killed wood and other feedstocks, the project will help support economic activity in rural B.C.'s forest communities.

**International Composting Corporation (ICC)****Nanaimo****Province of B.C. funding – \$2,500,000****Total project value – \$7,500,000****Project phase jobs – five****On-going jobs – 25**

ICC plans to process 15,600 tonnes per year of organic waste (now going to a landfill site) from the Nanaimo Regional District and produce approximately 2,000,000 litres of biodiesel per year at the Duke Point Industrial Park.

**Peace Biofuels Ltd. (PBL)****Dawson Creek****Province of B.C. funding – \$2,000,000****Total project value – \$60,000,000****Project phase jobs – 200****On-going jobs – 106**

PBL proposes to construct a 40-million-litre canola biodiesel plant in Dawson Creek, producing canola oil from an extraction plant integrated with the biodiesel plant. Most of the canola will be grown in B.C.'s Peace region and the biodiesel plant will contribute to the area's important agriculture sector.

**Pure Power Global Ltd.****Quesnel****Province of B.C. funding – \$880,000****Total project value – \$17,600,000****On-going jobs – four**

Pure Power Global (PPG) Ltd. will design and build a bio-refinery in Quesnel to convert 10 MT per day of woody



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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009STED0013-000322  
March 17, 2009

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development  
The University of British Columbia

### **PROVINCE, UBC FINDING MORE WAYS TO USE, PROTECT WOOD**

VANCOUVER – A partnership between the Province and the University of B.C. is enabling one of the world’s top wood scientists to develop cutting-edge manufacturing technology that will help B.C.’s forest products industry compete in the global economy, Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell announced today.

Philip Evans has been named the B.C. Leadership Chair in Advanced Forest Products Manufacturing Technology. Before coming to UBC in 2001, he was director of the Centre for Science and Engineering of Materials at the Australian National University in Canberra.

“Government understands the importance of funding research that will help B.C.’s forest products industry compete effectively in an increasingly tough worldwide market,” said Bell, who made the announcement on behalf of Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development. “Through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund, we’re making sure Dr. Evans’s world-class research skills stay in B.C. to develop our value-added wood products.”

Evans’s research focuses on the structure and properties of wood at the macroscopic, microscopic and nanoscopic levels. He works with universities and corporations around the world on novel technologies for modifying and improving the properties of wood, as well as with B.C. communities that have relied on mills and are diversifying their economies. He was director of UBC’s Centre for Advanced Wood Processing – the world’s largest university-based centre for R&D and education related to value-added wood processing – from 2001 to 2006.

“For more than 80 years, the UBC faculty of forestry has contributed new knowledge and technology to support a sustainable forest industry in British Columbia,” said John Hepburn, vice-president research at UBC. “The Province’s support through this LEEF chair will bolster our ongoing partnership to effectively manage B.C.’s valuable forest resources and maintain a leading role in the increasingly competitive global marketplace.”

Evans’s accomplishments include developing image software that can pick out cracks in timber and distinguish them from similar markings – such as annual growth rings – saving researchers the time-consuming job of counting the cracks by hand. This, along with a machine he developed to speed up cracking, is accelerating the process of finding treatments to prevent wood from weathering. He is also conducting groundbreaking research into new materials that mimic key structural elements found in wood.

“A better understanding of wood will help us to unlock the hidden potentials of this important natural resource to B.C. and the world,” said Evans. “It also provides us with new opportunities to maximize the economic benefits while protecting our environment.”

The Province provided \$2.25 million to endow the chair permanently through its \$56.25-million Leading Edge Endowment Fund, established in 2002. Funding for LEEF is part of \$1.7 billion committed to research and innovation in B.C. since 2001, which has leveraged another \$1 billion in research funding from other sources.

“This LEEF chair will help create jobs for the B.C. economy by encouraging the use of more B.C. wood for such things as decks and house siding,” said Chong, who is responsible for research in B.C. “The bonus, environmentally speaking, is that wood requires far less fossil fuel to process than metal, plastic and concrete – so Dr. Evans’s research is also helping us tackle climate change.”

The provincial contribution was matched by funds from FPInnovations, UBC and forest sector supporters like Viance LLC, a leading producer of wood preservatives and coatings with branches in the United States, England and Finland. Evans has worked with Viance and other chemical companies for 15 years on wood treatments.

“Through this LEEF chair appointment, Dr. Evans’s broad expertise will be directed at addressing issues of significant consequence to the future use of wood products,” said Pierre Lapointe, president and CEO of FPInnovations, a Canadian not-for-profit forest research institute. “We are optimistic that the leading-edge work Dr. Evans is doing around physical and chemical surface treatments of wood will lead to commercialization to new markets for B.C. producers of fine wood products.”

The Leading Edge Endowment Fund is establishing 20 leadership chairs, as well as nine regional innovation chairs, to attract top researchers to B.C.’s universities and colleges, and to keep them here. The B.C. Leadership Chair in Advanced Forest Products Manufacturing Technology is the 17<sup>th</sup> chair announced to date, and the first in the technology area. UBC has already been awarded five other chairs for spinal cord, prostate cancer, depression, addictions and early childhood education research.

Editors: B-roll and photographs are available at [www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/download](http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/download).

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009OTP0069-000744  
April 7, 2009

Office of the Premier

### **PROVINCE TO LOWER BUSINESS TAX, INCREASE TRADE TRAINING**

VANCOUVER – The Province will double the British Columbia Training Tax Credit effective July 1, 2009, giving employers new incentives to hire and train apprentices, and reduce the small business income tax to the lowest in Canada, Premier Gordon Campbell announced today.

“We expect to have 47,000 apprentices registered this year, triple the number of registered apprentices in 2001,” said Premier Campbell. “By doubling the B.C. Training Tax Credit we are helping employers find places for those apprentices so they can get the work experience they need and ultimately find the job they want to support themselves and their families. Increasing the tax credit will create new incentives for job creation that will help trades workers and employers alike in these challenging economic times.”

The training tax credit program started in 2007 to encourage employers to take on apprentices. The program provides refundable income tax credits equal to 10 per cent of salary and wages paid up to \$2,000, for each apprentice enrolled in any of the more than 100 apprentice programs that cover 140 careers. Effective July 1, employers will be eligible to claim up to \$4,000 annually per employee.

Premier Campbell also announced that the Small Business Income Tax will be reduced to the lowest in Canada by April 1, 2012, to be paid for by Carbon Tax revenues. The Province will also raise the small business income threshold from the current \$400,000 to \$500,000 on January 1, 2010 – the highest threshold in Canada. That represents a 150 per cent increase in the threshold from \$200,000 since 2002.

“B.C.’s small businesses employ more than one million people in every corner of the province, and since 2001 small businesses in B.C. have created close to 160,000 jobs,” said Premier Campbell. “We are going to do everything we can to secure those jobs and make sure British Columbia is ahead of Canada and North America when it comes to creating a strong, competitive economy. Reducing this tax and raising the threshold will make more businesses eligible for what will be the lowest tax rate in the country.”

Today’s announcements build on other government economic initiatives which include:

- Reducing small business income taxes by 44 per cent in 2008.
- Reducing the general corporate income tax rate to the lowest rate in Canada by 2011.
- Creating the new Industrial Property Tax Credit of 50 per cent of provincial school property tax payable by light and heavy industries.
- Extending the BC Mining Flow-through Share Tax Credit.
- Extending film tax credits and expanding eligibility for the Film Incentive BC tax credit.

For more information on B.C.’s Economic Plan, go to [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca).

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## NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release  
2009STED0017-000411  
March 18, 2009

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

### **PRINCE GEORGE JOINS THE BIZPAL NETWORK**

PRINCE GEORGE – Opening a business in the City of Prince George just became easier thanks to BizPaL, an online permit and licence service that helps entrepreneurs start up faster.

The launch of BizPaL in Prince George was welcomed today by Jay Hill, MP for Prince George-Peace River; Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Mount Robson; Pat Bell, MLA for Prince George North; and Prince George Councillor Garth Frizzell, on behalf of Mayor Dan Rogers.

“I am glad to see BizPaL extended to more communities in British Columbia,” said Hill. “We need to do all we can to help Canadian small businesses drive our economy. This service makes it easier for businesses to get the information they need to start up and grow. BizPaL is part of our government’s economic plan to support innovation and cut red tape.”

“Small businesses are the heart of British Columbia. We need to do everything we can to help them be as successful as possible,” said Bond. “BizPaL means that small business owners can reduce paperwork and focus on improving or expanding their operations.”

“Through BizPaL, all levels of government can provide permit and licensing information conveniently online,” said Bell. “This streamlines and simplifies the start up process, saving Prince George businesses time and money.”

Entrepreneurs can use BizPaL to receive a personalized list of the permits and licences needed to establish and run their business. This unique partnership between federal, provincial, territorial, regional and local governments is designed to cut through the paperwork burden small businesses face.

“This will be a great addition to the services we offer our small business community,” said Rogers. “I would like to thank my council colleagues for their support in bringing BizPaL to Prince George.”

“BizPaL is a user-friendly tool that cuts red tape and demonstrates our government’s commitment to making British Columbia the most small-business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada,” said Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development. “Today’s launch provides another great example of what can be achieved when all levels of government work in partnership.”

The BizPaL service in Prince George was developed with the support of Industry Canada, in collaboration with the City of Prince George and the Province of British Columbia. Area business owners and entrepreneurs can access the service by visiting [www.city.pg.bc.ca/city\\_services/cpd/bizpal/](http://www.city.pg.bc.ca/city_services/cpd/bizpal/).

Last year, the Premier’s Innovation and Excellence Awards recognized the BizPaL program in the partnerships category. The goal is to have BizPaL available to all municipalities in British Columbia by 2010.

Visit [www.bcBizPaL.ca](http://www.bcBizPaL.ca) for more information and to access the websites of participating partners.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009STED0018-000489  
March 23, 2009

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

### **B.C. HIRES INDIA TRADE & INVESTMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

VICTORIA – British Columbia’s economic and cultural relationship with India is being strengthened thanks to the appointment of the Province’s first trade and investment representative in this emerging economic superpower, announced Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development.

“India has emerged to become one of the world’s most powerful economies and our government is very pleased to be increasing British Columbia’s presence in this key market,” said Chong, also Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative. “British Columbia has always held close cultural and economic ties with India. By hiring on-the-ground expertise, the Province is helping B.C.-based companies form additional partnerships and trade relationships in this lucrative market.”

The Province has contracted Abroaders Consultancy India Pvt Ltd. to provide trade and investment services in India. Headed by Mr. Pratap Raju, who brings a proven track record of establishing business relationships between Indian and foreign-based organization and companies, Abroaders Consultancy will open and operate a dedicated trade and investment office in Bangalore (Bengaluru). It is anticipated the office will be open by early summer.

In addition to promoting British Columbia as a destination for trade and investment, the Bangalore office will advance research and innovation partnerships and support inbound trade missions and inquiries by B.C.-based companies and organizations. The office will also help Indian investors form partnerships in B.C. by working closely with the new Asia-Pacific Business Centre, located at Robson Square in Vancouver, and the Province’s India and Southeast Asia Business Development Section.

Bangalore is India’s third-most populous city and is known around the world as the ‘Silicon Valley’ of India, due to the numerous Information Technology (IT), software, aerospace and telecommunications companies and research institutes headquartered in the city. To take advantage of Bangalore’s strengths, the trade and investment office will focus on the following sectors: Information and communication technology (ICT); biotechnology and life sciences; advanced energy and environmental technology; and advanced education.

British Columbia’s bilateral trading relationship with India was worth \$410 million in 2008, an increase of 120 per cent compared to 1999. Over this period of time, total British Columbia’s exports to India have more than doubled to reach \$170 million in 2008.

The Bangalore office will be British Columbia’s sixth trade and investment office in Asia. The other offices are located in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo.

By 2020, the trade gain with the Asia-Pacific could be worth an estimated \$76 billion for British Columbia and \$230 billion for Canada. The total employment impact is estimated to be 255,000 jobs in British Columbia.

The establishment of British Columbia's trade and investment offices is a component of the Province's Asia-Pacific Initiative and helps establish British Columbia as Canada's Pacific Gateway.

For more information, please visit [www.CanadasPacificGateway.ca](http://www.CanadasPacificGateway.ca). The Asia-Pacific Business Centre can be contacted at 604 660-9727, toll-free at 1-888-880-ASIA (2742) or through email, [asia.pacific@gov.bc.ca](mailto:asia.pacific@gov.bc.ca).

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2009STED0015-000342  
March 12, 2009

Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development  
Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development

### **B.C. LEADS CANADA WITH LABOUR MOBILITY BILL**

VICTORIA – B.C. became the first province in Canada to introduce legislation to dismantle barriers to full labour mobility to all trades and professions today. This legislation supports the national Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), improving opportunities for workers and employers, said Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, and Ida Chong, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development.

“The provincial government is taking action now to ensure that British Columbians share in the opportunities created by unprecedented freedom of labour mobility throughout Canada,” said Chong. “It’s fitting to see B.C. take this first step – since Premier Gordon Campbell’s leadership proved essential to achieving labour mobility at the national level.”

“With the introduction of Bill 9, we are supporting a historic agreement on labour mobility between Canada’s first ministers and fulfilling British Columbia’s commitment to the Agreement on Internal Trade,” said Coell. “This legislation provides a solid foundation for our future success, ensuring we have the human resources B.C. will need in the coming decades.”

Bill 9 will allow a person certified in any Canadian jurisdiction to be recognized and able to practise their profession in any other Canadian jurisdiction, and is similar to legislation being enacted or revised in other provinces. Under the AIT, each province will continue to be responsible for maintaining and monitoring the requirements that are in place through provincial legislation for regulated occupations, such as doctors, lawyers, engineers and certified trades.

B.C. has been a national leader in the move towards a labour mobility accord, and has clearly demonstrated the mutual benefits of professional and trades recognition through the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) in place between B.C. and Alberta, and the subsequent improved labour mobility between the two provinces. Additionally, British Columbia’s pioneering efforts with Alberta have helped to engage provincial regulatory agencies, leading talks on best practices for qualification recognition.

British Columbia has long been a destination of choice for many Canadians, with many natural and economic benefits to residents. The new national AIT removes a long-standing barrier, and further enables B.C. to attract, and quickly employ, the skilled trades and professions needed in many sectors – especially important as retirements over the next 10 years are forecast to exceed the total number of students currently in the B.C. post-secondary system.

For more information, please visit [www.aved.gov.bc.ca/labourmobility/](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/labourmobility/).

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